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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. Introduction

1. The present addendum is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from Economic and Social Council decision 2000/311 of 22 November 2000 adopted by the Council at its resumed substantive session of 2000.

2. In its resolution S-5/1 adopted at its fifth special session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Economic and Social Council to act on its proposals to establish a human rights inquiry commission, to request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an urgent visit to the occupied Palestinian territories and to request the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and several special rapporteurs to carry out immediate missions to the occupied Palestinian territories.

3. The report of the Commission on its fifth special session[1] and the statement of administrative and programme budget implications of the Commission's resolution, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/2000/112/Add.1-E/CN.4/S-5/5) were considered by the Council at its resumed substantive session of 2000 on 22 November 2000. At that session, the Council adopted decision 2000/311, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights. The additional requirements resulting from that decision are described below.

II. Additional requirements entailed by Economic and Social Council decision 2000/311

4. By its decision 2000/311 of 22 November 2000, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's decisions:

(a) To establish, on an urgent basis, a human rights inquiry commission, mandated to gather and compile information on violations of human rights and acts which constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law by the Israeli occupying Power in the occupied Palestinian territories and to provide the Commission with its conclusions and recommendations, with the aim of preventing the repetition of the recent human rights violations;

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(b) To request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an urgent visit to the occupied Palestinian territories to take stock of the violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupying Power, to facilitate the activities of the mechanisms of the Commission in the implementation of the resolution, to keep the Commission informed of developments and to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) To request the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out immediate missions to the occupied Palestinian territories and to report their findings to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

5. The above decision of the Council relates to section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[2] The additional activities and resource requirements entailed by this decision are contained in the statement of administrative and programme budget implications of the Commission on Human Rights resolution. They include $133,200 for consultants (four human rights investigators and two forensic experts), $528,400 for travel and $80,000 for operating expenses, totalling $741,600 under section 22, Human rights, and $28,800 under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services (for details, see annex).

III. Conclusions

6. In summary, the requests contained in Economic and Social Council decision 2000/311 give rise to requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 of $28,800 under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and $741,600 under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

7. Provision has been made under section 2 not only for programmed meetings, but also for meetings that might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences is consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. On that basis, it is estimated that the amount of $28,800 relating to the remuneration of four interpreters required to service the human rights inquiry commission in Geneva could be absorbed within the permanent conference-servicing capacity of the Organization.

8. No provisions have been made to cover the additional requirements of $741,600 under section 22.

9. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be able to be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

10. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium to finance the costs of the additional activities recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2000/311.

11. Consequently, an additional provision of $741,600 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. That provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require related additional appropriation of $741,600 under section 22, Human rights.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 22* (E/2000/112-E/CN.4/S-5/5).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

Annex

Additional resource requirements arising from Economic and Social Council decision 2000/311

	United States dollars
Section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services	
Temporary assistance for meetings (four interpreters at Geneva ($342 per day each for 21 days))	**28 800**
Section 22, Human rights	
1. Human rights inquiry commission (assumes three weeks of pre-mission and three weeks of post-mission work in Geneva, and six weeks of travel to the region)	
Five members of the commission	
In Geneva:	
Travel (average of $5,000 each)	25 000
Daily subsistence allowance ($230 per day)	48 300
To the region:	
Travel (average of $3,360 each)	16 800
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	68 250
Subtotal	**158 350**
Four human rights investigators and two forensic experts	
Travel to the region (at $5,000 each)	30 000
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	57 960
Remuneration (three months at P-4 level)	133 200
Subtotal	**221 160**
Two interpreters to the region	
Travel (at $3,360 each)	6 720
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	19 320
Subtotal	**26 040**
Five Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights staff and five security staff	
Travel at $3,360 each	33 600
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	96 600
Subtotal	**130 200**
Subtotal, inquiry commission	535 750

	United States dollars
2. High Commissioner's mission to the region (High Commissioner and three accompanying staff for seven days)	
High Commissioner	
Travel	3 360
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	2 275
Staff	
Travel (at $3,360 each)	10 080
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	4 830
Subtotal	**20 545**
3. Missions of the six Special Rapporteurs, one Representative of the Secretary-General and two members of the Working Group referred to in paragraph 6 (c) of Commission resolution S-5/1 and eight staff of the Office of the High Commissioner accompanying them (assumes seven days of travel to the field)	
Nine Rapporteurs/Representatives/Working Group members	
Travel (at $5,000 each)	45 000
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	20 475
Eight staff	
Travel (at $3,360 each)	26 880
Daily subsistence allowance[a]	12 880
Subtotal	**105 235**
4. Operating expenses in support of the field activities of the Commission	
Rental of premises for six weeks	8 000
Video/photographic equipment	12 000
Communication costs and equipment	20 000
Vehicle rental and drivers	20 000
Miscellaneous supplies and services	20 000
Subtotal	**80 000**
Total, section 22	**741 600**
Total requirements under sections 2 and 22	**770 400**

[a] Average United Nations rate of daily subsistence allowance applicable to five cities in Israel (Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, Tiberias, Nahariya) and elsewhere is $230; an additional 40 per cent, or a daily subsistence allowance of $325, is provided to the members of the Commission, the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteurs, the Secretary-General's Representative and the two members of the Working Group.